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14 October 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Performance, Evaluation and Improvement

FROM : John N. McMahon
Associate Deputy to the DCI for the
Intelligence Community

SUBJECT : COMIREX and SIGINT Committees

As you recall, over the past several months I have pondered aloud the rhetorical question of whether or not it makes sense to house the COMIREX and SIGINT Committees within the IC Staff. While such pondering has not brought forth any lucid answers, it has raised sufficient question in my mind to suggest that we generate an honest effort to give full weight to the value of moving COMIREX and SIGINT to some other organization.

For openers, I would propose to retain the chairmanship and possibly one or two others to support the chairman within the IC Staff. However, the more operationally oriented segments of those committees could be more properly located in other areas of the Intelligence Community.

and, of course, an appropriate amount of supporting elements to each of them would be assigned with them. DDI might also be a resting place for some or all. I would see retaining some vestiges of an Imagery Division and a SIGINT Division in order to provide the evaluation and assessment of our SIGINT and imagery activities which are appropriate functions of the IC Staff.

Not using the specifics of the above, but the general concept, I request that you prepare for our consideration by 15 November several options of what we might do to locate the various elements of COMIREX and SIGINT Divisions in more proper houses about the Community, assuming the thought has merit.

I am well aware of perturbations that any such move will have on personnel. However, we will treat that as a separate issue once we determine what makes sense logically from an organizational and functional standpoint.

John N. McMahon

cc: Chairman, SIGINT Committee
Chairman, COMIREX

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